

**Town of Sunset Beach  
Town Council  
Tuesday Regular Meeting  
December 19, 2017**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Mayor Robert Forrester, Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Benton, Councilman Charles Nern, Councilwoman Jan Harris, Councilman John Corbett and Councilman Rich Cerrato

**Members absent:** None

**Attorney & Staff Present:** Grady Richardson, Town Attorney; Susan Parker, Town Administrator; Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief; Richard Childres, Deputy Fire Chief; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Ken Klamar, Police Chief; Cindi Stephenson, Administrative Assistant; and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk

Mayor Forrester called the Meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**Draft Agenda Amendment and Approval**

The Council reviewed the draft Agenda and made the following amendments:

- Appoint ABC Board Member - Moved to January 8, 2018 Meeting
- Discussion Concerning Climate Control Measures – Moved to future Agenda

MAYOR PRO-TEM BENTON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. MAYOR FORRESTER CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Closed Session**

MAYOR PRO-TEM BENTON MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO CONSULT WITH THE TOWN ATTORNEY CONCERNING TWIN LAKES RESTAURANT EASEMENT AND TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER. MAYOR FORRESTER CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

COUNCILMAN CORBETT MADE A MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND RECONVENE MEETING. MAYOR FORRESTER CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Mayor Forrester advised no action is needed as a result of the Closed Session.

Mayor Forrester stated “Does any member of the Council have a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest with regard to any item on the agenda, and if so, please state so at this time?” No one spoke.

### **Mayor and Council Discussion**

Mayor Forrester informed the Council that the NC Rate Bureau proposed a homeowner's insurance rate increase by 25% for properties on or near the coast. Mayor Forrester advised that the area Mayor's have drafted a letter opposing the rate increase. Information including an email and mailing address will be placed on the Town website for private citizens use when opposing the increase. The deadline for comments is December 29<sup>th</sup>.

MAYOR PRO-TEM BENTON MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE MAYOR FORRESTER TO SIGN THE LETTER OPPOSING THE PROPOSED HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE RATE INCREASE. MAYOR FORRESTER CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **GSATS**

Councilman Corbett advised of GSATS funds identified for local projects and grant submittal information will be forthcoming in January 2018.

### **Minutes for Approval**

COUNCILMAN CERRATO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 10, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES, THE NOVEMBER 21, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND THE DECEMBER 4, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. MAYOR FORRESTER CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **Public Comments on Agenda Items Only**

Ron LaBruno 908 Resort Circle – Expressed opposition to the proposed amendment for Ordinance 93.01.

### **Old Business**

#### **Discussion of the Island West end property Memorandum of Agreement**

Attorney Richardson advised that the Memorandum of Agreement executed by all the parties placed the pending litigation into inactive status on December 8, 2017 by order of Judge Locke. The developer is in negotiations with the State of North Carolina to purchase the property and place it in a conservation status equal to that of Bird Island.

#### **Council Meeting Procedures – Roberts Rules of Order**

The Council reviewed the current Council Rules of Procedure.

COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO AMEND RULE 10 TO REQUIRE A SECOND TO ALL MOTIONS AND TO ADHERE TO RULE 14(b). MAYOR FORRESTER CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

#### **Fire Department Staffing Analysis and Comparison**

Chief Dempsey and the Council reviewed the Staffing Analysis and Comparison of the Sunset Beach Fire Department with the Fire Departments of Shallotte, Calabash, Tri-Beach, St. James, Grissetown/Longwood and Ocean Isle Beach. Chief Dempsey explained the volunteer program in which volunteers are only paid if they respond to a fire or accident call; volunteers do not respond to medical calls. Councilman Benton requested this item to be placed on a future agenda to give time for the Council to analyze the data provided.

## **Old Business (Cont.)**

### **Appoint Fireman Relief Fund Board Member**

COUNCILMAN CERRATO MADE A MOTION TO RE-APPOINT ALLEN RUNDALL TO THE FIREMAN'S RELIEF FUND BOARD MEMBER WITH A TERM EXPIRATION OF JANUARY 2020. COUNCILMAN NERN SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR FORRESTER CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **Appoint GSATS TAC Member and Alternate Member**

Former Councilman Larkin was the GSATS TAC Member and Councilman Corbett was the Alternate Member. Councilman Corbett desires to remain the Alternate Member.

COUNCILMAN CERRATO MADE A MOTION TO APPOINTMENT MAYOR FORRESTER AS THE GSATS TAC MEMBER. COUNCILMAN NERN SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR FORRESTER CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **Consideration of Ordinance 93.01 Amendment Premises to be Kept Clean; Notice of Violation Subsection A**

The Council reviewed the proposed amendments for Ordinance 93.01 and agreed to allow Councilman Corbett, Dustin Graham, Public Works Director and Ron LaBruno (Public Comments speaker opposed to amendment) to draft an acceptable amendment for Council consideration.

## **New Business**

### **Consideration to begin 18/19 Budget Process in January, 2018**

Councilman Cerrato requested the Council to establish quarterly Work Sessions for Council to discuss issues but no take action. The Council agreed to designate the February 20, 2018 Meeting as a Work Session.

### **Councilman Cerrato's Memo dated December 3, 2017**

The Council reviewed the list of Agenda Items included in Councilman Cerrato's December 3, 2017 Memo and agreed to place the ERC Committee, Rules and Regulations, Conflict of Interest Policy, the Sunset at Sunset Event and the Cabanas issues on the January 23, 2018 Agenda. The Council requested Staff to contact Robert Neal, Dredging Consultant and establish a Meeting date for him to provide a project update, address any Council members questions and participate in a financing discussion.

### **Review upcoming Agenda Items and Identify New Agenda Items for January 8, 2018 Meeting**

The Council reviewed the Disposition of Directives and added the following items:

- January 8, 2018 Agenda      Appoint ABC Board Member
- January 23, 2018 Agenda      Discussion Concerning Climate Control Measures
- January 23, 2018 Agenda      ERC Committee Rules/Regulations Discussion
- January 23, 2018 Agenda      Conflict of Interest Policy Discussion
- January 23, 2018 Agenda      Sunset at Sunset Event Discussion
- January 23, 2018 Agenda      Cabanas – Beach Patrol – Discussion
- January 23, 2018 Agenda      Fire Department Staffing Discussion

**Public Comments**

Karen Joseph 915 Sandpiper Bay Drive – Questioned in which Meeting the Sunset at Sunset Issue would be discussed. The Council advised January 8, 2018.

**Adjournment**

MAYOR PRO-TEM BENTON MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 19, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING. COUNCILMAN NERN SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR FORRESTER CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Town of Sunset Beach**

*Robert Forrester*

**Robert Forrester, Mayor**

Submitted by:

*Lisa Anglin*

Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk